

REMARKS

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

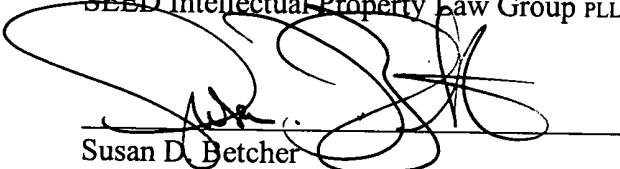
Claims 1-15 are currently pending, but stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,358,395 B1 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,944,978 issued to Okazaki. Without agreeing or disagreeing with the Examiner's position, but solely to facilitate prosecution of the pending application, Applicants enclose a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) in order to overcome the rejection.

In view of the above remarks and the enclosed executed Terminal Disclaimer, allowance of claims 1-15 is earnestly solicited. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any additional issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the matter.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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